

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
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E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS: PFOR ET YO
SUBJ: MINIC VISIT TO ETHIOPIA

SUMMARY: THREE DAY VISIT OF YUGOSLAV VICE PRESIDENT AND
FEDERAL SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MILOS MINIC CONCLUDED
JAN. 25 WITH ISSUANCE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED
BY MINIC AND EPMG FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO. DURING THREE
DAYS IN ADDIS, MINIC CALLED ON PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE
AND ON FIRST VICE -CHAIRMAN MENGISTUHAILE-MARIAM, BESIDES
HOLDING LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN KIFLE AND
OTHER CABINET MINISTERS. COMMUNIQUE, COUCHED IN EXTREMELY
CORDIAL TERMS, WAS NOTABLE FOR ETHIOPIAN SUPPORT OF
STANDARD YUGOSLAV POSITION ON INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY,
RESPECT FOR INTERNAL INTEGRITY, AND NON-INTERFERNECE INTO
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. YUGOSLAVIA IN TURN SUPPORTED
ETHIOPIAN POSITIONS ON AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI AND ON PEACEFUL
RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES BETWEEN NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES (READ SUDAN). COMMUNIQUE STRESSED THROUGH-
OUT UNITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON INTER-
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NATIONAL ISSUES AND AFFIRMED RIGHT OF EVERY PEOPLE TO
CHOOSE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM BEST SUITED THEIR
NEEDS. COMMUNIQUE REFERRED IN RATHER VAGUE TERMS TO
AGREEMENT REACHED ON BROADENING BILATERAL RELATIONS,
WHIECH AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION WILL FOLLOW UP ON
DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. END SUMMARY.

1. EXTREME CORDIALITY CHARACTERIZED JAN. 22-25 VISIT TO ETHIOPIAN OF YUGOSLAV FIVCE PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ANDFEDERAL SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MILOS MINIC. MEIDA INDICATED NO SPECIFIEC REASON FOR VISIT AT THIS TIME, AND VISIT SEEMED MORE ONE OF GOOD WILL NATURE BETWEEN TWO NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, SUCH AS HAD CHARACTERIZED PAST YUGOSLAV CONTACTS WITH HAILE SELASSIE GOVERNMENT. APPARENTLY NO NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED DURING VISIT, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION DOES REFER TO UNSPECIFIED AGREEMENT ON BROADENED BILATERAL 43)-589, , WHICH AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION WAS TO FOLLOW UP ON IN YUGOSLAVIA AT LATER STAGE.

2. COMMUNIQUE STRESSED TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTIRES, PROGRESS IN BILATERAL COOPERATION AND UNANIMITY OF VIEWS ON IMPORTANT INTER-NATIONAL QUESTIONS. NEED FOR FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICLA CO-OPERATION WAS EMPHASIZED. BOTH COUNTIRES SUPPORTED CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AS MOST REALISTIC PRESENT ALTERNATIVE FOR SETTLEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, PLO PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND RIGHT OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT FUTURE. OTHER STANDARD NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY ISSUES LISTED INCLUDED PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT, INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, NEW INTERANTIOANL ECONOMIC ORDER.

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3. COMMUNIQUE FURTHER SUPPORTED STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE IN ZIMBABWE, FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, AND FOR LIQUIDATION OF APARTHEID AND BANTUSANIZATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, ALONG WITH FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE FOR DJIBOUTI ON BASIS OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND NON-ALIGNMENT, WHICH OF COURSE IS DEAR TO ETHIOPIAN HEARTS. YUGOSLAV SIDE IN TURN MUST HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY AFFIRMATION OF PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS. COMMUNIQUE ALSO PLUGGED FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION WITH EUROPE SCHEDULED FOR BELGRADE LATER THIS YEAR.

4. MINIC IS QUOTED INPRESS AS HAVING STATED, "THE CRUCIAL ISSUE FOR ALL NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IS TO RESOLVE THEIR DISPUTES AND DIFFERENCES QUICKLY, OR ELSE THEY WILL CAUSE DIFFICULTIES TO ONE ANOTHER. IF

SUCH DIFFERENCES ARE NOT AMICABLY RESOLVED, POSSIBILITIES
FOR INTERFERENCE FROM IMPERIALIST, COLONIALISTS
AND FORCES OF DOMINATION AND EXPLOITATION WILL BE
CREATED. " WHILE MINISTER NAMED NO NAMES, SUBSEQUENT
STATEMENTS BY MINIC AFTER RETURN TO BELGRADE MAKE IT
CLEAR THAT REFERENCE IS TO CURRENT CONTROVERSY BE-
TWEEN SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA, WHICH ETHIOPIANS CONTINUE
TO DOWNPLAY AS FAST AS SUDANESE BUILD IT UP.

5. ALL-IN -ALL, IMPRESSION GAINED FROM VISIT WAS THAT
COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES GROWING Apace, THAT
NO SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS EXIST, AND THAT VISIT
WAS SIMPLY PERIODIC EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN TWO
COUNTRIES WHOSE RELATIONS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN
CLOSE.
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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